

see what would happen. I think what Senator Hall is doing here is commendable, and quite frankly, Senator Hall, it's probably tokenism. It does not result in a tremendous expenditure from the state when you compare the several hundred millions of dollars of state taxpayers money that goes to support the public school system versus the million eight that would be flowing through to parents, many of whom are parents of public school students. Second thing this bill does, this proposal does, I think, is it adds to the concept of parental involvement and parental support in education. One of the things that we have learned about students that do well versus students that don't do well, those students that have parents that are involved and supportive of education, supportive of their children's involvement in education, do well. Those that don't have supportive parents, don't do as well. I think by the state recognizing parental support of education, by giving tax credits, or tax...not even tax credits, it's tax deduction for the amount of money that they spend on their children's education will support more parental involvement. I commend Senator Hall for bringing this proposal, I support it, and I hope others do also.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I want to say two good things about this amendment, before I begin my opposition to it. First, the amendment is constitutional with respect to the Federal Constitution, and I think Senator Hall would have the stronger of the arguments, if we were to say...ask ourselves were it constitutional against the State Constitution. In that sense I think the discussion should probably proceed with the assumption that this measure is constitutional. I think that's a fair assumption to make. Secondly, Senator Withem pointed out, and I would concur, that compared to other kinds of mechanisms that could be used, this is the lowest cost choice that could be exercised. That is to say by using the mechanism we do in this amendment that we have kept the costs, in terms of absolute dollars, at a minimum. Now I want to proceed to what I think is the reason that most justifies the red vote that I'll be casting on this amendment. Senator Withem made a good point, and I appreciated it. It was can't we get away from labels, and boxes, and...and dividing people up by different classification systems, and shouldn't we simply reward good education, shouldn't we find a way of addressing things that work, putting money there, and let's stop